



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/770,619	02/02/2004	Yoshinori Tsubaki	04072/HG	2307
1933	7590	05/14/2007	EXAMINER	
FRISHAUF, HOLTZ, GOODMAN & CHICK, PC			SCHWARTZ, PAMELA R	
220 Fifth Avenue			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
16TH Floor			1774	
NEW YORK, NY 10001-7708			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/14/2007	PAPER,

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/770,619	TSUBAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Pamela R. Schwartz	1774	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/23/07.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 and 21 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-16 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-19 and 21 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

Art Unit: 1774

1. Claims 1-5, 8-12 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. (6,562,441) in view of Liu et al. (US 2003/0099816) and Ohta et al. (5,989,771) for reasons of record and for reasons given below. The primary reference discloses a recording medium comprising a coating layer of a base material. The coating is a porous ink receiving layer formed from an aqueous composition comprising 100 parts by weight of a fine pigment of average diameter not larger than 1 micron and pore volume .4 to 2.5 ml/g and 1 to 100 parts by weight of a hydrophilic resin capable of forming a hydrogel by electron beam irradiation (see the abstract). The diameter of secondary particles is preferably 9 to 700 nm (col. 7, lines 1-8). The hydrophilic polymer may have side chains introduced by graft polymerization (col. 7, line 66 to col. 8, line 30). The polymerization degree is not disclosed but overlaps with the claimed range since the molecular weight of the resin is disclosed as in a range to 10,000 to 5,000,000 (col. 8, lines 37-52). Preferred amounts of the resin are as small as possible (col. 9, lines 22-42). The pore volume of the ink receiving layer is disclosed as ml/g (col. 9, lines 43-57). Based upon this disclosure, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to optimize pore volume to provide the desired amount of ink absorption capability in the layer. The reference discloses that inorganic salts may be included for their cationic characteristic (col. 10, lines 20-41). Such materials are also well known to those of ordinary skill in the art as multivalent metal compounds.

The primary reference does not disclose the particulars of the disclosed water soluble polymer derivatives having a side chain introduced by graft polymerization (col. 8, lines 18-20). Ohta et al. (5,989,771) teach water-soluble photosensitive resins that

improve water resistance in ink jet recording layers without reduction in ink absorption (col. 2, lines 15-18). The resin may be a hydrophilic resin that incorporates photosensitive groups (col. 2, line 28 to col. 3, line 3, Example 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the water soluble resins modified with photosensitive groups taught by the secondary reference as the water soluble polymer derivative having a side chain introduced by graft polymerization of the primary reference in order to achieve the result of improved water resistance without loss of ink absorption.

Liu et al. teach an ink jet recording material containing silica. The silica may be made by a wet process, including the gelation method, or a dry process [0048-0049]. The silica may have a BET specific surface area of 25 to 400 m²/g [0050]. The reference discloses pulverizing or dividing particles that are larger in size than desired due to agglomeration of primary particles [0057, 0061, 0062, 0064]. The reference discloses desired sizes of secondary particles of 10-300 nm and 5-30 nm for primary particles [0064-0066]. While the reference does not disclose a coefficient of variation in primary particle distribution, it discloses determining the particle size of the primary particles [0063] and the importance of maintaining primary particle size in specific ranges [0066]. Since it is known in the art to control particle size distribution in order to control the size and shape of pores formed between the particles, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, from the disclosure of the reference at [0066] to narrowly control particle size distribution in order to obtain desired and favorable ink absorption characteristics. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art

Art Unit: 1774

to select a silica from those disclosed for use in this art by the secondary reference since particulars for the silica of the primary reference were not disclosed and since the silica of the primary and secondary reference serve equivalent purposes in the recording layers of the references.

2. Claims 6, 7, 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. (6,562,441) in view of Liu et al. (US 2003/0099816) and Ohta et al. (5,989,771) as relied upon above and further in view of Kobayashi et al. (6,761,941 or 5,612,281) for reasons of record and for reasons given below.

The Kobayashi et al. references each disclose gas-phase silica for inclusion in ink jet recording layers. They do not specifically disclose a ratio of isolated silanol groups but they teach the number of silanol groups/nm² (see col. 6, lines 27-52 of '281 or col. 8, lines 25-52 of '941). These references teach that silica with low surface silanol density results in a highly porous structure. Based upon these teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select a gas-phase silica with low surface silanol density as the silica of the primary reference in order to form a layer of high void volume. With respect to particles size, '941 specifically sets forth the primary particle size at col. 8, line 65 to col. 9, line 6. '281 teaches the size of the secondary particles at col. 6, lines 53-67. From this disclosure, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the primary particles had to be very small, on the order of a few nanometers, and in a range overlapping with that instantly claimed.

3. Claims 1-5, 8-10, 14-16 and 21 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-27

Art Unit: 1774

of copending Application No. 10/699,343. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the copending application claims an ink jet recording sheet having a support and a porous layer includes hydrophilic binder crosslinked with ionizing radiation and microparticles with a binder to particle ratio of 1:5 to 1:15. The binder polymer is crosslinked through side chains and has a polymerization degree as instantly claimed. While detail of the particles and support are not claimed, looking to the specification to see what is intended for the claimed support and particles, they are the same as instantly claimed [0069-0072, 0117].

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

4. Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 21 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of copending Application No. 10/886,433 in view of Liu et al. (US 2003/0099816). The copending application recites in its claims an ink jet recording sheet having a layer comprising a hydrophilic binder and an inorganic pigment that is gas-phase silica. The binder is recited as cross-linked with ionizing radiation. The claims of the application are directed to the same kinds of binder polymers with the same or overlapping polymerization degree and a plurality of side chains that are cross-linked to the main chain by UV radiation. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to control the ratio of side chains to the main chain in order to control the

amount of cross-linking that occurs. Claim 5 of the copending application recites that the support is non water-absorptive.

Liu et al. is relied upon as in paragraph 2 above for the particulars of the silica which have not been set forth by the claims of the copending application.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

5. Claims 6, 7, 10, 13 and 16 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of copending Application No. 10/886,433 in view of either patent to Kobayashi et al. (6,761,941 or 5,612,281).

The copending application recites in its claims an ink jet recording sheet having a layer comprising a hydrophilic binder and an inorganic pigment that is gas-phase silica. The binder is recited as cross-linked with ionizing radiation. The claims of the application are directed to the same kinds of binder polymers with the same or overlapping polymerization degree and a plurality of side chains that are cross-linked to the main chain by UV radiation. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to control the ratio of side chains to the main chain in order to control the amount of cross-linking that occurs. Claim 5 of the copending application recites that the support is non water-absorptive.

The Kobayashi et al. references each disclose gas-phase silica for inclusion in ink jet recording layers. They do not specifically disclose a ratio of isolated silanol groups but they teach the number of silanol groups/nm² (see col. 6, lines 27-52 of '281 or col. 8, lines 25-52 of '941). These references teach that silica with low surface silanol

Art Unit: 1774

density results in a highly porous structure. Based upon these teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select a gas-phase silica with low surface silanol density as the silica of the primary reference in order to form a layer of high void volume. With respect to particles size, '941 specifically sets forth the primary particle size at col. 8, line 65 to col. 9, line 6. '281 teaches the size of the secondary particles at col. 6, lines 53-67. From this disclosure, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the primary particles had to be very small, on the order of a few nanometers, and in a range overlapping with that instantly claimed.

6. Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 21 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of copending Application Nos. 10/643,349, 10/833,842, 10/855,525 and 10/823340 each taken in view of Liu et al. (US 2003/0099816). The copending applications recite an ink jet recording sheet having a layer comprising a hydrophilic binder and inorganic microparticles. The binder is recited as cross-linked with ionizing radiation. The claims of the applications are directed to the same kinds of binder polymers with the same or overlapping polymerization degree and a plurality of side chains that are cross-linked to the main chain by UV radiation. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to control the ratio of side chains to the main chain in order to control the amount of cross-linking that occurs.

With respect to 10/643,394, see claim 1 and the description of this embodiment at [0050-0052], 10/833,842, see claims 1-3, 10/855,525, see the claims and the description of the claimed embodiment at [0040,0049] and 10/823,340, see claims 1

and 2 and the description of the claimed embodiment at [0084]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to determine the percentage of side chains on the hydrophilic polymer in order to control the degree of cross-linking that occurs at these sites. In each case a non-water absorptive support is either claimed or described in the specification concerning the claimed embodiment of the invention.

In each case, the particles are disclosed to be silica. Liu et al. is relied upon as in paragraph 2 above for the particulars of the silica which have not been set forth by the claims of the copending application.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

7.. Claims 6, 7, 10, 13 and 16 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of copending Application Nos. 10/643,349, 10/833,842, 10/855,525 and 10/823340 each taken in view of either patent to Kobayashi et al. (6,761,941 or 5,612,281).

The copending applications recite an ink jet recording sheet having a layer comprising a hydrophilic binder and inorganic microparticles. The binder is recited as cross-linked with ionizing radiation. The claims of the applications are directed to the same kinds of binder polymers with the same or overlapping polymerization degree and a plurality of side chains that are cross-linked to the main chain by UV radiation. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to control the ratio of side chains to the main chain in order to control the amount of cross-linking that occurs. With respect to 10/643,394, see claim 1 and the description of this embodiment at [0050-0052], 10/833,842, see claims 1-3, 10/855,525, see the claims and the

Art Unit: 1774

description of the claimed embodiment at [0040,0049] and 10/823,340, see claims 1 and 2 and the description of the claimed embodiment at [0084].

The Kobayashi et al. references each disclose gas-phase silica for inclusion in ink jet recording layers. They do not specifically disclose a ratio of isolated silanol groups but they teach the number of silanol groups/nm² (see col. 6, lines 27-52 of '281 or col. 8, lines 25-52 of '941). These references teach that silica with low surface silanol density results in a highly porous structure. Based upon these teachings, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to select a gas-phase silica with low surface silanol density as the silica of the primary reference in order to form a layer of high void volume. With respect to particles size, '941 specifically sets forth the primary particle size at col. 8, line 65 to col. 9, line 6. '281 teaches the size of the secondary particles at col. 6, lines 53-67. From this disclosure, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the primary particles had to be very small, on the order of a few nanometers, and in a range overlapping with that instantly claimed.

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 and 21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

Art Unit: 1774

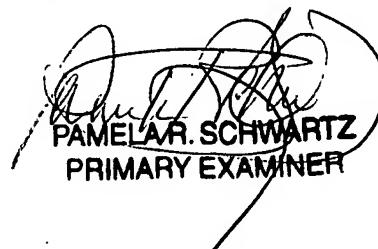
TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pamela Schwartz whose telephone number is (571) 272-1528.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye, can be reached on (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PRSchwartz
May 8, 2007



PAMELA R. SCHWARTZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER